CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended)

An isolated gene comprising ~~either one of~~ a nucleotide sequence~~s~~ selected from:

(a) a nucleotide sequence described in SEQ. ID. NO: 1,

(b) a nucleotide sequence which encodes a protein having a chlorohydrin and hydroxycarboxylic ester asymmetric hydrolase activity and hybridizes with the nucleotide sequence described in SEQ. ID. NO: 1 under stringent conditions,

wherein the stringent conditions comprise hybridization using a DNA derived from a colony or plaque, or a filter to which a fragment of the DNA is fixed, in the presence of 0.7 to 1.0 M NaCl at 65°C, and then washing the filter with 0.1 to 2-fold of a SSC solution at 65°C,

(c) a nucleotide sequence which encodes an amino acid sequence described in SEQ. ID. NO: 2, and

~~(d) a nucleotide sequence which encodes an amino acid sequence having a chlorohydrin and hydroxycarboxylic ester asymmetric hydrolase activity where the amino acid sequence is an amino acid sequence in which one or a plural number of amino ac did(s) is/are deleted, added or substituted from the amino acid sequence described in SEQ. ID. NO: 2, and~~

~~(c)~~ (d) a nucleotide sequence which encodes an amino acid sequence having a chlorohydrin and hydroxycarboxylic ester asymmetric hydrolase activity where the amino acid sequence is an amino acid sequence having 95% or more homology with the amino acid sequence described in SEQ. ID. NO: 2.

Claims 2-3 (Cancelled)

Claim 4 (Currently Amended)

An isolated DNA which consists of the nucleotide sequence described in SEQ. ID. NO: 8.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented)

A vector containing the gene according to claim 1.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented)

A vector containing an isolated gene comprising ~~either one of~~ a nucleotide sequence~~s~~ selected from:

(a) a nucleotide sequence described in SEQ. ID. NO: 1,

(b) a nucleotide sequence which encodes a protein having a chlorohydrin and hydroxycarboxylic ester asymmetric hydrolase activity and hybridizes with the nucleotide sequence described in SEQ. ID. NO: 1 under stringent conditions, wherein the stringent conditions comprise hybridization using a DNA derived from a colony or plaque, or a filter to which a fragment of the DNA is fixed, in the presence of 0.7 to 1.0 M NaCl at 65°C, and then washing the filter with 0.1 to 2-fold of an SSC solution at 65°C,

wherein said vector further contains the DNA as defined in claim 4.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented)

The vector according to claim 6, wherein said vector is plasmid pKK-EnHCH1.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented)

An isolated transformed cell containing the gene as defined in claim 1.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended)

An isolated transformed cell containing the ~~gene~~ vector as defined in ~~claim 1~~ claim 5.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended)

An isolated transformed cell containing the ~~gene~~ vector as defined in ~~claim 1~~ claim 6.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented)

The transformant according to claim 8, wherein the host is *E. coli*.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented)

The transformant according to claim 9, wherein the host is *E. coli*.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented)

The transformant according to claim 10, wherein the host is *E. coli*.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented)

The transformant according to claim 8, wherein the host is *E. coli* JM109 strain or DH5α strain.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented)

The transformant according to claim 9, wherein the host is *E. coli* JM109 strain or DH5α strain.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented)

The transformant according to claim 10, wherein the host is *E. coli* JM109 strain or DH5α strain.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented)

A process for the preparation of a protein comprising an ~~either one of~~ amino acid sequence selected from:

(a) an amino acid sequence described in SEQ. ID. NO: 2, and

(b) an amino acid sequence having a chlorohydrin and hydroxycarboxylic ester asymmetric hydrolase activity where the amino acid sequence is an amino acid sequence having 95% or more of homology with the amino acid sequence described in SEQ. ID. NO: 2, comprising culturing the isolated transformed cell of claim 8.

Claims 18-21 (Cancelled)